



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

School Board to put sinking fund on Nov. 3 ballot, reduced to .5 mill

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to reduce the request for a sinking fund millage from 1.13 mills to .5 mill and put it back before voters on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The proposal would be for a period of seven years, 2016 to 2022 inclusive.

Voters had rejected the 1.13 renewal in May and the board authorized a survey to find out why it failed.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel put together a list of reasons to discuss at the meeting, but did not make the 54-page report of the survey otherwise available to those attending the meeting. He said he had sent it to board members the previous week.

Supt. Van Tassel said the survey gave the following insights on why the May ballot question was turned down by more than 1,000 votes:

1. Taxes are too high, regardless of their purpose;
2. Passage is good if you start your campaign with 60% in favor, but the survey showed barely 50% in favor, which means a difficult uphill path;
3. The community feels that the facilities now are in excellent shape and money is not needed at the previous level;
4. Voters are not well informed on the sinking fund and school matters. Seventy-nine percent do not have children in the schools;
5. The DDA clause at the end of the ballot question influenced 10% of the voters to vote no. It has been determined it didn't need to be there. That last clause would not need to be on the ballot, he said.

Van Tassel recommended putting the half mill on the ballot or not to go for a ballot question at all.

He said if they didn't go back to voters at all they would have to use about \$500,000,

give or take, a year for the next three to five years to maintain buildings in the district. The half mill is expected to bring in \$753,255 yearly. The 1.13 mill would have brought in \$1,702,355.

Van Tassel said Van Buren Township is reportedly going for 6.5 mills, a 2.5 mill increase, for public safety in the November election. He said that will pull negative voters to that election.

The decision on the millage question has to be made by July 31 and the language presented to Wayne County by Aug. 11. VBT was due to vote the next day on its millage proposal.

Van Tassel said since 2007 the working family has been in a crunch. There are a lot of things they can't say no about, but they can say no on this, he said.

He said they need to find a balance to make this work.

Board members agreed the public has to be made aware that the 1.13 mill tax is what

(continued on page 19)

Three file for two city council seats; Conley, Miller file for mayor

Belleville City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Long reports that five petitions have been turned in for the two open council seats and the one mayor's position as of the 4 p.m., Tuesday deadline. These candidates will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Two Council seats:

- James Shrove, former councilman seeking return to council;
- Jack Loria, present councilman seeking reelection; and
- Tom Smith, present councilman seeking reelection.

Mayor:

- Kerreen Conley, present mayor seeking reelection; and
- Philip Miller, first-time city candidate.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

Finishing touches are being put on the new canoe/kayak launch and boat docks at Horizon Park in downtown Belleville. The slide to take boats down to the dock has egg-sized river rocks beneath it. Four new docks are along the route to the kayak/canoe launch at the end. On Sunday afternoon boats were steering close to the dock to check out the new construction. At the top of the stairs the new construction was closed off with bright orange construction fencing. The whole thing will be dedicated during the Taste of Belleville event at the park on Aug. 20. Before the dedication, the public will be invited to take free, sample kayak rides in Belleville Lake.

New canoe/kayak launch at Horizon Park to be dedicated Aug. 20

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The final touches are being put on the new canoe/kayak launch at Horizon Park in the city of Belleville and the launch is expected to be dedicated with fanfare during the Aug. 20 Bridge Walk/Taste of Belleville events.

The Belleville Downtown Development Authority will pay for people to try kayaks without charge in the early afternoon on Aug. 20 before the Bridge Walk begins at 5:30 p.m.

At the regular July 15 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, Spicer engineer David Vallier reported on the construction work by low-bidder Blue Ribbon, which he said was doing an "awesome job."



Vallier said the railing is up, the dock is up, the timber stairway is up, along with lakeshore seating and the kayak slide.

He said among the "real minor" things to do were the cement slab for the picnic

(continued on page 12)

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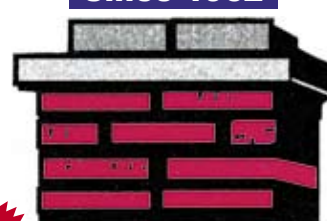
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Court Watching:

Defendant's relative takes picture, video of witness during testimony

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On July 15, after 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green had made the decision to bind over defendant Ralph Rosas to face felony charges at circuit court, the proceedings took a dangerous turn.

Judge Green was informed that a court official had seen a member of the defendant's family take a picture of a testifying witness with her phone. A court officer questioned the woman about it and she denied taking a picture. She said she just had been checking her messages.

Judge Green had Officer Tim Rapp take possession of the phone and search for the picture, which he found and showed to the judge.

Judge Green said taking pictures of witnesses is not allowed and it could end up with contracts being put out on people. She said they are considering whether to ban cell phones completely from the courtroom and this is a good example of why that might be done.

She told the woman and the ten family members of Rosas, who drove to Romulus together from Saginaw, that they are not helping Rosas with this kind of activity.

She said she would have the Officer Rapp delete the pictures from the phone, but Sumpter Township Det. John Toth said police were concerned this incident would intimidate the witnesses. He asked that before Officer Rapp deletes the pictures for police to take pictures of the pictures for the record. Judge Green agreed.

"I didn't know I was taking a picture," the woman said. "I was just getting messages."

"I don't believe that for a minute," Judge Green replied. "You're better off not saying anything at all."

Officials asked for the woman's driver's license for identification and she presented it. Then, they asked what the "officer safety caution" on her record was for and she said she had been convicted of a felony.

When she protested to police that the judge said the picture would just be deleted and she could go, police said she was not free to go yet.

Upon further investigation, police found a video of a witness and others had been taken in the courtroom, where she followed them across the courtroom as they walked.

Judge Green did not wish to go any further with the incident and told police to just document the pictures and then delete them, return the camera, and let the woman go. That's what they did.

Before the incident with the phone, Judge Green had presided over a lengthy

preliminary exam for defendant Ralph Rosas, who was involved in the stabbing and armed robbery incidents on Halloween that started inside the Rollers Skate Park in Sumpter Township.

The skating rink had been leased out for what was called a "fraternity party" from Eastern Michigan University that began at 10 p.m.

Rosas, who was being held on \$500,000 or 10% bond in the Wayne County Jail, was charged with one count each of assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, armed robbery, and assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault). He also was named a habitual offender.

After hearing the testimony from two witnesses, Judge Green dismissed count four because there was no testimony from Tony Jones who was the one witnesses said called out "gun" twice and was running from whoever had the gun.

Judge Green said if Jones comes forward police can refile those charges. Sumpter Det. Toth asked Judge Green to approve a witness detainer to bring Tony Jones to court to testify for the refile of those charges. Judge Green agreed.

Then, Rosas' retained attorney Alan Crawford asked for a reduction of bond. He said his client, who works full time, could wear a tether. Crawford pointed out his client's entire family drove from Saginaw to support him.

Judge Green referred the bond situation to pretrial services at circuit court.

Rosas is scheduled for an arraignment on the information at 9 a.m. July 29 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

Witness Christopher Johnson

The first witness against Rosas called by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Lukiewski was Christopher Johnson, who said he was working security at the event at the skating rink that night. He was assigned as a "rover" moving around inside the rink to make sure no one was acting up.

He testified that a guy in the club was smoking and he told him to stop. He said the guy said he worked for those promoting the party and he said he didn't have to stop smoking.

Johnson said he grabbed him by the arm and walked him to the door. There was resistance – pushing, shoving -- with the guy walking away.

"Mr. Rosas came at me at the door," Johnson testified. He said Rosas said, "Get off of my home boy."



Ralph Rosas

Johnson said he pushed Rosas and his security chief Tony Jones told him to go outside. Johnson said once he was outside, two to three guys came "busting out" at him. He described a short Hispanic male and a tall, light-skinned black male with a beard.

"I'm going to kill you, m----- f-----," the short Hispanic male said, Johnson testified. The man had a knife and they were chasing him, Johnson said.

He described how he tried to run away and went this way and that and was stabbed over by a store. Those pursuing him even climbed up over cars to follow him around.

"No one was coming to help me," Johnson said, noting his co-security workers Tony Jones and Chris Gilliam were standing around. "Watch out. The little guy has a knife," he said he called out as he ran by them.

He said about 30 seconds after that he got stabbed. The short Hispanic guy stabbed him as he ran between two guys with his hands in the air. He thought he had been punched but half way through a field he put his hands on his chest and there was blood.

He said he looked back and the first person he saw was Rosas chasing him. He said 30-40 yards away he saw the tall guy with a beard who had a gun.

He ran to the gas station and banged on the door, but the store was closed. He jumped over a fence and jumped another fence and hid behind a house.

He said he hid for about 10-15 minutes and a buddy who came with him was trying to find him. Johnson had turned off his phone so the phone wouldn't be heard by his pursuers and he found he had missed 20 calls from the same guy. Finally his friend found him and he came crawling out of the yard.

Johnson testified a big piece of meat was hanging out of his chest. His friend brought him to the skate rink as officer Colleen (Carafelle) Gottschalk was pulling up. He was on the ground and she pulled up his shirt and saw the intestine hanging out of his bloody chest. (This also was recorded by her body camera.)

Johnson said he was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital where he had surgery.

The Prosecutor had Det. Toth and Sumpter Officer George Salajan show the surveillance video from the gas station/party store across the street from the skating rink. The video showed Johnson running to the gas station and Rosas and two others chasing him. He ran behind Jones and Gilliam and was stabbed. It showed him running in front of the gas station,

jumping the fence. That part of the video is all that could be entered as evidence for this witness since that was all that Johnson observed.

(He ran out of both of his shoes and went through the backyards all the way to Crandall Court. Police said he tried to get neighbors to open their doors and help him, but they were afraid.)

Under cross examination, defense attorney Crawford asked Johnson if he knew about someone knocking someone else out in the club and Johnson said no. He testified Rosas and others had on red, but he never saw him with a knife or gun.

Johnson said he has been working with the security firm for two years and they worked across the state.

Crawford noted that Johnson knew Rosas from a past altercation at a party in Saginaw when a woman was hit in a club. Crawford said the reason for the fight in Sumpter wasn't about smoking. Crawford said Johnson asked people for money to smoke in the club.

"It's acceptable to say no and stab him?" Judge Green asked Crawford.

Johnson said that he didn't ask for money for smoking and it was the security team's job to keep out smoking. He said he heard that some ask for money for smoking, but he didn't see it happen that night.

Witness Daniel Gilliam

The second witness called by the prosecutor was Daniel Gilliam, a part-time security guard who identified the defendant as being inside the roller rink on Halloween. He said he saw Chris Johnson approach Rosas inside and Johnson went outside and Rosas was outside.

Gilliam testified Johnson was being chased by Rosas and his friends and the short Mexican had a blade. He said Chris was scrambling around and someone said "gun." He said his boss Tony Jones was 5-10 feet behind him and ran past him running away from Rosas.

Gilliam said he is hard of hearing so he asked Tony Jones what he said and he yelled out "gun" again and then Gilliam started running as well.

Gilliam said Rosas pointed a pistol at his head and ordered Gilliam to "give me every f----- thing you have" and so he gave him \$40. Gilliam testified that Rosas then said, "You've got more than that" and put his hand in Gilliam's right front pants pocket and pulled out \$200-\$300 while pushing the barrel of the gun against his cheek.

Rosas' associate Alex then told Rosas that Gilliam hit him and Rosas said, "Oh, you hit my boy. You hit my boy," and then pushed Gilliam.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

VBT board OKs 6.5 mills to go on ballot

The Nov. 3 ballot should be interesting for local voters.

On Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Trustees approved going for a .5 mill renewal of the present 1.13 mills for the sinking fund. That's for seven years. And, it's less than half.

On Tuesday, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a 6.5 mill proposal for the Nov. 3 ballot. That's the 4 mills already being paid for public safety, plus 2.5 mills more. That's for seven years, too. That's much more.

The 4-mill levy currently being paid for public safety doesn't expire until Dec. 31, 2016, so if the 6.5 mills fail, the township can put other questions before voters until the voters get it right.

On Tuesday, VBT Trustee Brenda McClanahan cast the only no vote against the 6.5-mill question, noting the survey taken by the school district showed local voters were in no mood for higher taxes.

Former VBT Supervisor Paul White and former Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan agreed that 6.5 mills were too much and a 4 mills renewal was reasonable and attainable.

Supervisor Linda Combs said by getting the extra 2.5 mills for public safety, the general fund could get the 2 mills back that it currently puts into public safety to use to pay on the Visteon bonds. White called that thinking "bait and switch."

The library millage will probably be a part of the 2016 Presidential election. Those tax votes are coming, too.

Taxpayers need to stay alert.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A Harbour Pointe resident stopped by to tell us that the city is supposed to cut the grass by the retention pond in his subdivision and they let it get too high. He is sick of asking the DPW to take care of it, he said.

Last fall, Lois Mida Zilka, my classmate from the BHS class of 1954, was in an automobile accident a few days before the BHS all-class reunion. She had planned a get together at her house for her classmates before the big all-class reunion. She was in the hospital and couldn't make either party and was really disappointed.

This year she is doing well, but just learned that she has a torn rotor cuff and will be facing surgery. She told her doctor she couldn't possibly do it until after her class reunion and the all-class reunion. Her parties are planned for Friday, Sept. 18, and Sunday, Sept. 20. The all-class reunion is on Saturday, Sept. 19.

If you see her at any of the parties, please don't tap her on the shoulder or hug her too tight.

The committee putting together the all-class reunion wants to stress teachers and school staff members are invited to the reunion, as well as students from all the former graduating classes.

At the Belleville Area District Library meeting on July 14, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy reported that 165 tickets were sold to the Garden Walk. The vendors and volunteers walked free and so there were about 200 enjoying the walk.

She said that was lower than usual. Last year they didn't have the walk because



library supporters were working on the millage vote.

Director Suchy also passed out copies of the July 7 article "Starting an Adult Literacy Program" by Dan Lodge that was published on "Public Libraries Online" put out by the Public Library Association.

Lodge is the librarian who coordinates the Belleville Area District Library's Literacy Program and he points out things you need to consider before starting an adult literacy program at a library.

I got a call on Thursday night from a reader who had been on his way south on Belleville Road to the Music Lakeside 7 p.m. concert in Belleville when he saw a big police chase heading north on Belleville Road, with about ten cars from various jurisdictions chasing a work truck, sometimes three abreast using the center lane.

He said he called VBT Dispatch later and he was told it was a stolen truck from another jurisdiction and that it was stopped on Morton Taylor and Yost.

According to other police officers aware of the incident, it started out as a report of a drunk driver out of Sumpter Township PD. Then, a Huron Township police officer in downtown New Boston tried to make a traffic stop. As he started to approach the truck the driver sped off, causing some damage to the Chapp gas station on South Huron Road near Waltz.

The chase continued to Huron River Drive and around and about ending up on I-94, exiting onto Belleville Road. One police officer said it was at Ecorse and Morton Taylor before it finally ended with a short pursuit on foot.

The man who was driving the stolen vehicle had multiple warrants out for his arrest. Huron Police Chief Everette Robbins said one officer sustained minor injuries during an altercation.

A brief view of the chase through downtown New Boston is on You Tube.

Van Buren Township's former longtime director of building and economic development Bryce Kelley is now city administrator for the City of Southgate.

At a recent Belleville Planning Commission meeting, Commissioner John Juriga announced that \$9,200 had been raised at the recent Soiree for Music Lakeside at the BYC building.

Channel 4 TV announced some special programs on local scams. While I was checking out their listings, I found a FBI website alert that sounds good. Maybe some of the people being targeted by scam artists locally would be interested in: www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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**Letters****Belleville Fire Fighters
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To the Editor:

On behalf of the City of Belleville Firefighters Auxiliary and the Belleville Paid On Call Firefighter's Association we would like to publically thank Kay Atkins for her letter that was in the paper on July 9, 2015 and generous offer from the Roy Aho family to have a dinner at their restaurant and from Barb Tomlinson and Sister Marty Cherney for their help in appreciation of the tireless service the City of Belleville Fire Department members provide the community. If there is anyone we missed to thank please let us know.

We would like to clarify Kay's statements that not only do we fight fires, work accidents and facilitate rescues, but a majority of our calls are medical in nature. Our department personnel are made up of a majority of EMTs, a few Paramedics and a few Emergency Medical Responders. When seconds count and the Advance Life Support provider is 10, 15 or 20+ minutes from arrival at a scene, it is essential that people with the best skill set, appropriate notifications of the incident from our dispatch provider and the proper vehicles and equipment are available quickly to complete the task at hand.

If anyone is interested in joining the fire department and lives within a 4-mile radius of the city please fill out an application at city hall and we will respond to you within a reasonable amount of time. We are always looking to keep our applicant pool up to date with members of the community who want to make a difference.

Also, if you want to join our auxiliary please do so. The auxiliary meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Fire Hall at 7 p.m. The auxiliary is open to anyone in the tri-community area that is

interested in volunteering to help our fire department and our community. We are currently working on a Firefighter's Ball fund raiser to purchase equipment that will be used during festivals and other events so we need help and support from the community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Blackburn, President

City of Belleville Firefighters Auxiliary

Brian Blackburn, President

Belleville Paid On Call Firefighter's Association

**Judges needed for
county fair contests**

To the Editor:

Wayne County Fair Community Arts Building is looking for talented crafters and artists that would be interested in volunteering to judge our adult and children's craft, art and photography projects entered for fair. Judging will take place the week of July 27. If you are interested please call Dru Allen (734-635-0878).

Cheryl Toms, Director

**30 years since Officer
Roy Graham died**

To the Editor:

Officer Roy Graham, Sumpter Township Police Department
July 28, 1985

It has been 30 years since my friend died. You are missed, but not forgotten.

Gene Taylor

Retired Belleville Police Chief

**UAW 898 thanks all for
giving to fund raiser**

Dear Businesses and Vendors:

The Ford Rawsonville UAW Local 898 Chaplaincy Committee would like to thank you and your company for your donation to our fund raiser.

Our first golf outing was a success, and would not have been possible without your help. The funds raised from this event will help make a difference in people's lives.

Again, we thank you for supporting our efforts. Your donation of money, goods, or services will mean so much to so many!

Warm Regards,

Doug Woolard

Ford Rawsonville Components Plant

UAW Local 898 Chaplaincy Committee

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Plant Chairman – Joel Goddard

Plant Manager – Kevin Poet

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– John F. Kennedy

*“A discussion is an exchange of knowledge;
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--Robert Quillen



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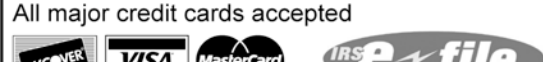
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Clarification: Driver of Davenport Construction truck is handicapped

Louis Barnes of Van Buren Township said he is the one who drives the Davenport Brothers Construction flatbed truck loaded with construction equipment that regularly parks in handicapped spaces at Meijer.

Barnes brought in his handicapped card that he hangs in the truck to the *Independent* to show he is deemed handicapped by the state of Michigan.

He said he had a heart attack and has trouble breathing and is trying to work for a living. He demanded an apology in the paper.

We apologize for upsetting Barnes. He agreed the picture was true.

-- Rosemary K. Otzman, Editor



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Obituaries



Joan Elizabeth Griffis

JOAN ELIZABETH GRIFFIS

(December 4, 1936 – July 9, 2015)

Joan Elizabeth Griffis, age 78, of Belleville, MI, passed away on July 9, 2015 with her husband, Paul Aguirre, family and close friends by her side. Also survived by daughter Debbie Hanna and granddaughter Kristen Hanna. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Stack.

Joan enjoyed traveling, antiques, garage sales, and arts and crafts sales. Joan graduated from the School of Nursing of Detroit Mercy on September 9, 1957. In 1958, Joan was certified by the Michigan Board of Nursing. She also was affiliated with the Harvard Medical School, where she devoted her time to timely responses to nursing (Health Study) questionnaire and is great appreciated by Harvard University.

She was much loved and will be greatly missed. In keeping with Joan's wishes, a simple cremation has been arranged. No public services are planned at this time.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Michigan Humane Society.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to keep at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



John William Kandler, Jr.,



JOHN W. KANDLER, JR.

(November 6, 1936 – July 14, 2015)

John William Kandler, Jr., age 78, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at his home surrounded by family. He was born November 6, 1936, son of John William & Eleanore (Fredericks) Kandler, Sr.

John proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force in the military police. He retired from General Motors, Willow Run plant, after 31 years of loyal service. He was a true outdoorsman. He loved mowing grass, cutting wood, fishing and trips up north.

Mr. Kandler is survived by his wife of 57 years, Dolores Marie (O'Brien) Kandler; four children John W. Kandler III of Taylor, MI, Steve (Sandy) Kandler of Ypsilanti, MI, Debbie Kandler and Jeff Kandler, both of Belleville; 12 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and two more on-the-way; brother Jerry (Garcia) Kandler of Capac, MI; two sisters Kathleen (Dave) Stehlik of Houghton Lake, MI and Joyce (Glenn) Cappella of Chesterfield, MI; also several nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation was 5-8 PM Thursday and 2-8 PM Friday with an 11 AM Funeral Saturday, July 18, 2015 with an hour of visitation prior. Deacon Peter Cornell officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to ALS of Michigan (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and would be greatly appreciated by the family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure.

Memorial Service held for Belleville Fire Fighter Timothy Graves

On Sunday afternoon, a Memorial Service was held at the Progressive Hall at Five Points in Romulus for Timothy Forrest Graves, 22, a Belleville paid-per-call fire fighter who died June 30 in Ohio.

Augusta Township Fire Department covered the city of Belleville so city fire fighters could attend the service. Several EMS providers were in attendance as well members of the Woodhaven Fire Department.

Huron Valley Ambulance sent its honor guard and a bagpiper played. Fire trucks and ambulances approached the Memorial Service with their lights on.

Van Buren Township provides emergency dispatch service for the city of Belleville, so VBT Dispatcher David McNally, who also is a VBT Fire Department Battalion Chief, did the last radio tone-out for Graves.

The Rev. William Kren, pastor of Dearborn Congregational Church, conducted the service and Joel Meyers brought words from the family.

Graves worked as an EMT at HealthLink Medical Transportation in Taylor and lived in Westlake Apartments in VBT. He was born July 30, 1992 and died June 30, 2015 when he was struck by a train in Portage, Ohio. He grew up in Romulus.

Graves dropped from sight June 28 after he left work in Taylor and a search was started by family and friends to find him. The death remains under investigation awaiting the Wood County Coroner's report.



Hope Emma Derr

HOPE EMMA DERR

(October 17, 1924 – July 21, 2015)

Hope Emma Derr, age 90, of Belleville, MI since 1955, passed away Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at her home. She was born October 17, 1924 in Dimondale, MI, daughter of Jefferson and Olive (Garrison) Moore.

Mrs. Derr was a very active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Belleville. She was also a member of September Days Senior Citizens, Van Buren Township, MI.

She is survived by son J. Brian (Cynthia) Derr of Traverse City, MI and two sisters Faye Langford and Olive Mascha. She was preceded in death by her husband James Derr in 1993, also three sisters Harriette Skarsitava, Jean Walk and Ina Jones.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Wednesday and will be 10-11 AM Thursday, July 23, 2015 with an 11 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment will be in Cadillac Memorial Gardens, Westland, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of the donor's choice.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

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More Letters

Open Letter to City of Belleville government

Open letter to the elected officials and employees of the City of Belleville:

I was happy to read the letter in last week's *Independent* from the "anonymous" person who is obviously concerned enough to call attention to the horrible (my word) appearance of the patched-up, scrubby, unpainted exterior wall on Main Street, opposite the Lunch Box.

Note: I personally would like to commend the owner(s) of the Lunch Box on the beautiful and clean appearance of their small (but tasty) business on Main Street. The empty building in question was recently vacated by the Charhouse restaurant. Is it any wonder why Charhouse left Belleville? I personally felt pride, comfort and satisfaction whenever I entered and ate at the Charhouse. It is my understanding, at that time, that the owner of the building would NOT make improvements that the Charhouse owners and management deemed necessary to maintain their reputation while serving the people of our tri-community.

Consequently, we lost a very nice restaurant. I think it is time we hold the owners legally responsible for the safety and appearance of their buildings, especially when the business is located on Main Street. On behalf of our residents and taxpayers, I would appreciate receiving an answer as to what the ordinances say and who is responsible for the overall inspections and follow-up of the businesses located in Belleville.

Over the years, I've heard people boast about our "beautiful Belleville." I have myself. But now, the obvious truth is that when people entering or exiting the bridge area, it's not uncommon to hear people complaining about the weeds alongside our beautiful Belleville Lake and, yes, even the sidewalks! Surely, common sense and loyalty to the city's appearance, would dictate cutting down the weeds, some of which are already so big and going to seed, which results in thousands more weeds next spring.

Also, it should be noted that the cracks in the cement sidewalks that are now there, caused by the ever-increasing weeds, simply means more repair / replacement costs to the taxpayers.

Doesn't anyone care? Or, are you wearing blinders? Perhaps, the job description of certain employees doesn't specifically state "git 'er dun"! Or, perhaps, our "city fathers" and/or employees don't even live in Belleville --so, who does care?

Another question directed to our City officials and employees: Does the City of Belleville have people (volunteers/council members?) who serve on a so-called beautification committee? If so, who gives them their authority? What are their duties, requirements, and penalties for offenses? Thank you,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker

AT&T releases company statement on its door-to-door sales

The following statement was released by AT&T in answer to the *Independent's* questions about door-to-door sales.

The newspaper has had several complaints about "fake" AT&T salesmen going door to door. One frightened resident reported police told her AT&T doesn't go door to door and she said she called AT&T who said the same thing.

AT&T statement

Yes, AT&T does use door-to-door sales agents to see if people are interested in our popular U-verse service when it's available in their neighborhood. Our authorized door-to-door agents:

1. Wear a visible badge that displays the vendor company name listing them as an "Authorized Solution Provider." This is displayed in close proximity to AT&T's logo.
2. Carry a letter from the AT&T local market manager, which is made available upon request from the resident. The letter confirms that the agent is working on behalf of our campaign, their vendor company name and it includes contact information for the AT&T local market manager.
3. Have general AT&T sales collateral.

A consumer who has questions about an AT&T Door-to-Door agent at their door can ask for

identification, call our offices at 800-288-2020 to confirm, or simply not answer the door.

-- Teresa Mask, Media Relations
AT&T/Michigan

Thank you for St. Jude's Novena answer

To the Editor:

St. Jude's Novena. Thank you for my answered prayer.
Van Buren Township Resident

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Sumpter selects low-bidder Mr. Sealcoat to reseal, restripe lots

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting July 14 selected low-bidder Mr. Sealcoat to reseal and restripe four township parking lots.

The lots being redone are at the township hall, water department, and the police and fire departments.

Mr. Sealcoat's total bid was \$6,210. The only other bid was from Gatex for \$10,925.

In other business at the July 14 meeting, the board:

- Approved signing the water contract with Detroit Water and Sewer which has

been leased to the Great Lakes Water Authority. Township attorney Rob Young reported rates are targeted to increase no more than 4% and the bonds are assigned to the authority without the full faith and credit of the taxpayers;

- Approved advertising for back-up driver with commercial license for the Senior Center for Aug. 10-14 for transportation during Senior Olympics;

- Approved the proposed \$9,386 contract with SMART for the 2016 fiscal year;

- Accepted, with regret, the resignations of fire fighters Christopher Scott and Jennifer Scott;

- Approved the Senior Alliance's 2016

Annual Implementation Plan for Aging Services;

- Approved donating \$1,400 to the Eagle Scout project at the recycling center. The scout held at least one fund raiser and still needed money to buy materials for the shelter he is building;

- Approved the appointment of Trustee Matthew Oddy to be board liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals;

- Discussed reinstating the township newsletter which used to be sent out every three months and featured information for the residents from all the departments. It was stopped when the budget was tightened up. "People miss it," said Trustee Morgan. Supervisor Morgan said the majority of the people don't come to the board meetings and were kept informed by the newsletter. Supervisor Morgan said the board doesn't need to vote on reinstating it. Deputy Treasurer Karen Armatis said they had sent out 4,000 copies and the postage was the most expensive part of the project;

- Heard Mary Sherwood announce that former Trustee Barney Ban is healing from open-heart surgery in Glacier Hills rehab;

- Heard Doug Kowalski from the Moose Lodge announce the July 18 party at the Moose to celebrate one year in Sumpter. He announced a car show coming up in August, a Halloween party for kids and adults in October, a veterans' party in November, and a children's Christmas party in December;

- Heard Trustee Peggy Morgan tell the Moose members that one of the township residents has a problem with getting over a door sill when the lodge is being used as a voting precinct and she's not alone. She suggested Clerk Clarence Hoffman bring in a ramp to be used only for voting days. "We inherited the condition," said Moose administrator Robert Coutts. Trustee Morgan suggested the clerk work it out with the Moose. Virginia Belinski said she works at that precinct and when she walks in she has found it really dirty with sticky floors. The door is propped open and the cold blows in which causes the heat to kick on, she said;

- Discussed the welcome police presence at Banotai Park. Police Chief Jim Pierce



Isaac Lyman of Belleville High School recorded the work/study and regular meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on July 14. Timo Budiono of BHS agreed to record the meetings for showing on Sumpter cable after former cameraman Sam Cumberledge left that job after 11 years of service. Isaac is Timo's back-up and Isaac started out their new partnership when Timo couldn't do the first meeting.

said recently there was a problem with a guy walking on the beach and in the water with a dog, and another young man was fishing on the beach. He talked to both and the young man was turned over to his father. Chief Pierce said he goes to the park about 3-4 times a day and stays 15-20 minutes each time. Trustee Morgan said it is good to see how clean people are keeping the park and Supervisor Morgan said Treasurer Alan Bates does a lot of work at the park; and

- Went into closed-door session to discuss updates on the fire department union contract. Trustee Bill Hamm recused himself from deliberations since he is a paid-per-call fire fighter.

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Puppy found in Belleville identified with help of Facebook page

On July 13, a woman on East Huron River Drive in the city of Belleville called police to report a young male dog had wandered up on her porch.

Cpl. Kris Faull picked up the puppy who had a black collar, no tags, and a leash

that looked like it had been chewed. Cpl. Faull put the dog in the back seat of the scout car, but it was too slippery and he complained. Thus it was she drove around the neighborhood with him in the front seat.



She didn't find anyone out looking for him, so she took him to the station, gave him food and water and a potty break and then drove him around to the local veterinarians to see if they recognized him and to find out if he had a microchip.

She took him to Duke's, Belleville Animal Hospital, Sumpter Pet Care and Healthy Paws. No microchip, but Dr. Craiger thought he looked familiar, but couldn't come up with a name. They agreed the pup was about 10 months old.

Cpl. Faull took a picture of the dog and sent it to Reserve Officer Dennis Mowbray, whose girlfriend was active in dog rescue. She put the pup on the internet on a Facebook Page called Looking for Louie,

a huge pet finder in the state of Michigan – which, by the way, was founded by Cpl. Faull's former schoolmate Meredith Brown.

The puppy's family was immediately found. He lived a quarter mile away on E. Huron River Drive and he disappeared June 24. His name is Shotgun and he had lost a little weight.

The family was so happy to have Shotgun back that Monday night they grilled him his own hamburger. On Tuesday morning, they dropped by the station to thank Cpl. Faull, again, for bringing their little Shotgun back.

-- Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor



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VBT Trustee Brenda McClanahan issues call to arms on DUWA

At the July 7 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Trustee Brenda McClanahan read the following report to her fellow board members on the serious situation at the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA).



McClanahan

In February 2015, the DUWA board was slated to have a meeting with Wayne County's executive office to discuss an amended service agreement, since the prior agreement with the county had expired in 2012. The county gave its approval of the drafting of the new agreement last year.

The CEO Warren Evans had planned to discuss the issue of creating a Joint Management Board which would give each community a vote in the management of

the water and sewage treatment operation as it pertains to their community. This new service agreement would have been authorized under Public Act 8 of 1967 in the State of Michigan.

The above-mentioned meeting never materialized and all attempts to reschedule with the CEO's office were rebuffed. On June 17, 2015, a front-page article stated that Wayne County's Executive Warren Evans was opening his financial records to the State of Michigan in the hope that they will assist him in entering into a consent agreement under the Emergency Manager Act of 2012. The act protects the financial responsibility of governments and school districts. However, it does not necessarily protect the assets from being liquidated. In a recent *Detroit News* article, Wayne County has a deficit of over \$52 million.

The urgency at this point is to have a meeting with the County Executive Warren Evans and the State of Michigan. There is a real concern that there will be no segregation of the DSDS assets and funds and they will be treated as assets that can be liquidated to pay off the county's liabilities. This has the potential to result in substantially higher rates for all our residents in the County of Wayne.

Back in the 1980s, a federal consent judgment was entered into with Wayne County and the 13 communities were named as co-defendants because the treatment plant and sewage system was deficient and

overdue on upgrades in accordance with the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act.

Capital improvements of nearly \$300 million were financed by the aforementioned 13 downriver communities. So as you see, "We've already paid for the system," per our Treasurer Sharry Budd. After shouldering the heavy costs to our residents, a demand was made by DUWA to have a role in the management issues as they relate to our communities.

So, this is a call to arms for our board members to join with other board members of DUWA and demand that we be included in conversations and decisions in this endeavor.

At the July 7 meeting, DPW Director James Taylor, who is the township's DUWA representative, told the board that this is a serious situation.

"This is an asset for which we have paid. It's a travesty that a public entity will use this to pay off a debt we don't owe," Taylor said.

He said a meeting is coming up on July 16 with Judge Kaufman there along with the deputy director of Wayne County.

"We would like to get control of the system and need to find out what that transfer would cost. We have a number in mind and the county has its number in mind," Taylor said, pointing out Wayne County has its share of problems.

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Birthdays

July 23 – Brandon Blackburn
July 24 – Thomas Duperon
July 28 -- Janet Schonscheck

Do you have a birthday in July? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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— Blore's Razor

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Kayak launch

(continued from page 1)

table, which was due to be poured the next day, and the milling, paving, and striping of the parking lot planned for the week of July 27.

He said everything is scheduled to be done by Aug. 1.

Vallier said \$4,000 worth of expenses have been added to the project, which includes repairing and raising up the catch basin in the parking lot, addition of two-inch "egg rock" (river rock) underneath the slide which will be easier to maintain than vegetation, fixing a broken 4x4 post on the existing stairway, and replacing the kiosk glass with a higher-quality acrylic.

"For a \$104,000 project, this is small," Vallier said, adding, "I was out there today taking pictures and people are anxious to use it."

He said Blue Ribbon broke three flags of concrete when their trucks went over them and they will fix that at their own expense.

DDA coordinator Carol Thompson said the Department of Natural Resources, which gave a \$120,700 grant for the work, wants 30 days' notice for the grand opening and they want to see their plaques.

The DDA members discussed just what the signs at the site should say, although they all agreed they should match the design of the way-finding signs on Main Street. There needs to be signs that say no swimming, no fishing, no skateboards or bikes, for liability issues, Thompson said.

Also, Thompson said Elk Rapids has signs that say "courtesy dock" which was a suggestion on what to call this setup. Or, "community access docks."

The entire system is handicapped accessible, so "ADA" also needs to be posted somewhere, said DDA chairperson Rosemary Loria.

Thompson will propose some wording for the signs to the city council, which will make the final decisions.

They will want to decide how long the boats will be allowed to tie up at the 10-foot fingers of docks, from 1 to 3 hours or more.

Vallier said there could be another 10-foot section of dock added on without a problem in the future.

Thompson said she talked to Heavener Canoe and Kayak Livery in Milford and they said for from \$800 to \$1,000 they would bring out 12 to 18 kayaks, plus life jackets and paddles, so people can try out the kayak launch with short rides on Aug. 20.

Thompson said there would be some three or four spotters on the lake to keep watch on the novice kayakers. She suggested this be done at 2 or 3 in the afternoon, instead of when everything else is going on that day, including the rubber ducky race.

Thompson said she doesn't know the total cost for the dedication, but she will want to get word out with advertising and printing.

In other business at the 34-minute meeting July 15, the DDA:

- Heard City Manager Diana Kollmeyer say that the Playscape at Village Park is being torn down and 6-8" of compost taken out. Installation of the new structure was scheduled for the next week; and

- Heard Thompson point out that among the items to be approved on the July accounts payable list was a quarterly payment to the city of \$75,499 and a check for \$2,000 to the Belleville Area Historical Society. Accounts payable for June included \$7,000 to the National Strawberry Festival and two checks of \$3,000 each (\$6,000 total) to the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

City of Belleville uses its federal CDBG funds to purchase kayak launch

At the beginning of the July 15 meeting of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, City Manager Diana Kollmeyer announced how the city is using federal funds, dispersed by Wayne County, to help the DDA pay for the kayak launch.

The launch and docks added in Horizon Park are pretty much completed and is expected to be dedicated on Aug. 20 during the Bridge Walk/Taste of Belleville festivities.

City Manager Kollmeyer read the following prepared statement:

For many years the City has searched for projects that could be funded by Wayne County Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG) funds.

Most of our funding through this program must be used for bricks and mortar type projects with a minimum amount used to help fund our Senior/Disabled Transportation program and Administration each year.

It has become increasingly more difficult to find viable projects for use of these funds due to the fact that the criteria is very stringent.

In the 2014 fiscal year we have been able to fund a new Playscape for Village Park. This Playscape will be ADA accessible. Village Park, of course, is in the DDA District and this project will be completed in early August. We hope future year's funds will allow us to add pieces to the Playscape and continue developing our most under-utilized park in the City.

As we began to think about a project that could be approved by Wayne County CDBG for 2015, immediately the canoe/kayak launch came to the front. It meets the criteria for ADA accessibility; it is within the funding level that we have and the City thought it would be an excellent way for the City to



acknowledge our continued commitment to the DDA.

With that said, I am announcing to you that the purchase of the canoe/kayak launch has been approved by Wayne County CDBG in the amount of \$38,186.15.

The City has and will continue to assist in seeking funds that can be used for future projects within the DDA District AND thank you for your continued service.

The canoe/kayak launch and dockwork at Horizon Park has a \$120,700 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and about \$51,700 was expected to be paid by the DDA. Blue Ribbon submitted the low bid for construction work at \$194,071.50 and Spicer Engineers did the engineering work.

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Court watching

(continued from page 3)

After the police were called Rosas wanted to get inside the rink. He said he had a gun and to let him inside, Gilliam testified.

Then Prosecutor Lukiewski asked Gilliam to authenticate parts of the second part of the surveillance tape that he experienced. It shows Rosas with the gun and Rosas taking money from Gilliam's pocket.

In cross examination, Crawford asked Gilliam if a person got knocked out at the rink that night and Gilliam testified that was true and that Chris Johnson was the one punching the person.

Gilliam testified that a Miss Love at the door was taking money for entry. Crawford

asked if Gilliam asked people for money inside and he said yes when people didn't have their wristband on they needed to pay \$20 in addition to the regular fee to get in the club.

"Shortly after Jones yells 'gun' Rosas appeared from that direction and robs you?" asked Prosecutor Lukiewski. Gilliam said that was true but he never saw Rosas point a gun at Tony Jones.

The judge asked for arguments and the prosecutor said the first two counts – assault with intent to murder and assault with intent to harm less than murder -- were relying on the aiding and abetting part of the law because Rosas was one of three people chasing Johnson around the parking lot. "Johnson thought he was punched and then saw his intestines spilling out of his torso."

Count three refers to Rosas's armed robbery of Gilliam when he put the gun to his cheek and went into his pocket.

Count four – felonious assault – is more murky Lukiewski said because Jones yelled "gun" twice, but Jones was not present to testify.

Crawford said they can't treat the video as evidence and it's very clear who stabbed Johnson. But, he said, Johnson's credibility is in doubt because he testified he didn't knock anyone out and the second witness testified Johnson did knock the person out.

Crawford said this could have been the reason for him being chased and he obviously made a lot of enemies. He pointed out there is no testimony to support felonious assault. He said "Mr. Stilson" had the gun.

The two other defendants, still on the loose, have warrants out for their arrest. They are Robert Kristopher Stilson, 25, and Santino Dominick Deleon, 23, who

also is considered a habitual offender.

Sumpter police were assisted in Rosas' apprehension by the Bay County law enforcement task force in the Saginaw area.

Rosas had served 6 years and 8 months in prison on a plea deal on drug charges and a felony firearm charge originating in Saginaw County. He was discharged from prison on June 1, 2013.

New HVA Camp 9-1-1 set in Huron Township at Glaab's law office

Huron Valley Ambulance began serving Huron Township in April and now it is offering a free Camp 9-1-1 for children in Huron Township.

Camp 9-1-1 is a free day camp for children 8 to 12 years old. They will tour an ambulance, learn CPR and first aid, interact with local fire and police departments and visit a hospital emergency department.

HVA paramedics and EMTs will teach campers about safety at home and at play, how to perform life-saving skills on injured victims and all about emergency services careers.

Camp 9-1-1 will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19, and Thursday, Aug. 20, at the law office of David Glaab, 37255 Huron River Drive, New Boston 48164.

Registration is first-come, first-served and limited to 30 participants per camp. For a registration form or more information, call Jason Trojan, Camp 9-1-1 coordinator, at (734) 477-6781 or email him at camp911@emergenthealth.org. An online registration form is available at www.hva.org.

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, July 28 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water and Sewer Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, July 30 – Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals meets at 7 p.m. to consider a variation of setback regulations for an accessory building at 19780 Karr Rd.
- Monday, Aug. 3 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

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12007 RYZNAR DRIVE (off I-94 South Service Dr.) July 24 & 25, 9am-4pm. Boy's stuff (4,5,6), toys and household items. 7/23

SUBWIDE GARAGE SALE. Charter Club Estates. Tyler & Morton Taylor Roads. Friday-Sunday, July 24-26, 9am-5pm. 7/23

YARD SALE. July 24 & 25, 9am-4pm. 6452 Denton Road, 48111. Household items, electronics, sports equipment & much more. 7/23

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LARGE SALE. Thursday, July 30, Friday, July 31 & Saturday, August 1, 9am-4pm. Community United Methodist Church, 11160 Olive St, Romulus. 7/30

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**Minding
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This week end the **Belleville Area Council for the Arts** presents its **5th Annual Artfair on Main** art fair here in Downtown Belleville featuring fine art, children's activities, live entertainment, and excellent eats. Saturday hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live music on Saturday includes Belleville's own **Machine Gun Kelly**, from 1 to 3 p.m. followed by the **Sugar Factory**, from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday will feature a 3 p.m. concert by the **Belleville Community Band**. Meet award-winning artists **Deb Juriga**, **Kim Ensich**, and nature artist **Tim Marsh** who will be among the locals selling their works. I will once again be chalking the streets with children both days. Stop by to enter a chance to win a cool basket of art supplies in my Crayola Colors of Summer giveaway. No purchase required. A pancake breakfast will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday at the old Van Buren Fire Hall behind the Museum. Proceeds will benefit CAF5, the Community Assistance Foundation. See you there.

Garden Fantasy on Main Street is supposed to have a soft opening this week at the former location of Main Street Flowers. New owner **Colette McClinton** is excited to open and serve the Belleville community from downtown. Welcome Colette!

Today's paper features an insert from **Tin**

Pan Restaurant on Sumpter Road next to Sumpter Ace Hardware. Tin Pan is open at 8 a.m. six days a week (closed Mondays) with the only \$1.99 breakfast special in the area on weekends. The flyer features listing of its daily dine-in specials and pizza and sub coupons. Call (734) 699-9070.

The public is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, July 31 with the new **Simcell Cricket Wireless Store**, which just opened at **6089 Rawsonville Road** in the plaza behind Rite-Aid. The **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce** will cut the ribbon at noon, followed by refreshments and giveaways.

The **Belleville Area Council for the Arts' Music Lakeside Concert Series** continues tonight with **George Bedard**, a Rockabilly Blues band, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Horizon Park. The event is free. Rain location is inside Belleville United Methodist Church.

The **Yankee Air Museum** is gearing up for the **Hometown Victory Celebration-1945-2015**, the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of WWII with events the week of Aug. 13-16. There will be a parade and festival in Ypsilanti, a picnic in Westland, a presentation in Ann Arbor, and at the YAF Museum itself, a car show and memorial ceremony on the final day of celebration on Sunday, Aug. 16. Visit www.homefrontvictory.org and www.yankeeairmuseum.org for all the schedules, times and locations.

Do you have a news item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych with your suggestion at (734) 699-9020. There is no charge to be in this column.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

We're looking for fun, energetic & caring individuals to assist persons we serve in their homes in the Wixom & Novi communities.
\$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (248) 960-9657 or (248) 946-4425
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Start off the summer feeling great about the work that you do helping people we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided.
\$8.50 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (248) 437-7535 New Hudson
Email resume to: recruiter questserv.org

Sumpter resident arrested for sexual attack on Wear Rd.

Albert Riley, 26, of Sumpter Township was arraigned Tuesday on one count of kidnapping and one count of criminal sexual conduct – fourth degree. His preliminary exam is set for July 29 at the 34th District Court in Romulus and he is currently being held on bond.

Sumpter Police Captain Eric Luke said Riley was arrested Saturday after allegedly

approaching a 19-year-old woman walking in the 49000 block of Wear Road and groping her before attempting to pull her off the roadway and into a weeded area.

The young woman told police that she began to fight him off and heard a vehicle coming down the road, at which point Riley fled. He was subsequently arrested after being located at his residence.

Responding officers were Cpl. John Ashby and Sgt. Patrick Gannon. The case was presented to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office by Det./Cpl. John Toth and charges were approved.

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Current Job Opening

HELP WANTED PART-TIME ON CALL VAN DRIVER

The Township of Sumpter is accepting applications for a part-time on call senior citizens van driver. Must have a good driving record and physically able to help seniors into the van. Must have a chauffeur's license and able to obtain a CDL. Applications are available at Sumpter Township Clerks office 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, 734-461-6201. Equal opportunity employer.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Publish July 23 & 30, 2015

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 23, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm with the pledge showing present: Supervisor J. Morgan, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer Bates, Trustees: Oddy, P. Morgan, & Swinson. Excused absence Trustee Hamm. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approx. 4 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan supported by Swinson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments on agenda items only

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve minutes of the regular board meeting June 9, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to accept minutes of the planning commission May 14, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve warrants totaling \$242,622.69. Roll call vote: Yes: J. Morgan, Hoffman, Bates, Oddy, P. Morgan & Swinson. Nay: None. Absent: Hamm. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chamber: Motion by Bates, supported by Oddy to approve the parks & recreation/chamber report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Attorney: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the attorney report and the amendment for the POAM contract. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Board Response

10. New Business:

A. Motion by Bates supported by Swinson to approve for R Henry Construction to build and install 2 dock additions to existing dock in Banotai Park for \$1,200.00 paid from Wayne County parks grant. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Bates, supported by P. Morgan to approve to purchase 2 gates for Banotai Park from Hoover Fence Company for \$2,800.00 from Wayne County parks grant. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Bates, supported by Swinson to approve to pay DTE Energy upfront cost of \$3,492.17

to install 2 new street lights at Banotai Park. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Swinson to re-appoint Jay Bardell to planning commission term to expire 6-22-2018. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the resignation of Building Official John Tackett. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to appoint Tim Wright the building official. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve resolution 2015-07 FOIA fees in compliance with the 2015 FOIA amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Announcements

12. Open Floor

13. Closed Session: Re: Discussion of strategy and set perimeters of collective bargaining for fire department.

A. Motion by Swinson, supported by Hoffman to go into closed session at 6:54 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to go back into open session at 7:28 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to adjourn at 7:29 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on June 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Published: July 23, 2015

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Sumpter Township Notice of Public Hearing Variance

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals on August 6, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, for the purpose of receiving statements and views on a proposed Variance on 81-036-01-0001-000 better known as 20715 Griffin Court. The Variance request does not meet set back requirements, per Sumpter Township Ordinance. The Pole Barn must comply with Section 4.20(I) of the Zoning Ordinance, which regulates detached accessory structures greater than six hundred (600) sq. ft. in floor area, as follows:

- **Front Yard Setback:** No less than one hundred fifty (150) feet from the road right-of way and located behind the principal residential building.
- **Between Buildings:** No less than fifty (50)-foot setback is required between all on-site residential buildings and an on-site (farm) structure. No less than one hundred (100) feet from a residential building located on an adjacent parcel
- **Rear/Side Yard Setback:** No less than fifty (50) feet from the adjacent parcel perimeter.

Proposed Pole Barn would need a thirty (30)-foot variance from the required fifty (50)-foot setback between the structure and the rear property line.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr.
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Publish July 23, 2015

Sumpter Township Public Notice

Seeking Bids

INVITATION TO BID SUMPTER TOWNSHIP WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT SIDEWALK RAMP REPLACEMENT

**The Township of Sumpter is accepting proposals for the
POLICE DEPARTMENT SIDEWALK RAMP REPLACEMENT
in Sumpter Township, Wayne County, Michigan**

The proposed project consists of the removal and replacement of an existing sidewalk ramp and installation of miscellaneous concrete sidewalk per ADA requirements at the main entrance to the Sumpter Township Police Department located at 23501 Sumpter Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111.

Sealed bids will be received by:

Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Township Clerk
Sumpter Township
23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111

Until Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 1:30pm (local time)

Bids shall be publicly opened and read on:

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 2:00pm (local time)

Sumpter Township Clerk's Office
23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111

The Contract Documents may be examined at the offices of the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office.

Contract Documents may be obtained at the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

Township of Sumpter
Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Township Clerk

Publish: July 16, 2015; July 23, 2015

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Current Job Opening



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Current Job Opening



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

OPENING DATE: 07/01/2015

CLOSING DATE: Open until Filled

DEPARTMENT: Water & Sewer Division/Building & Grounds

SALARY: Annual Salary of \$56,840 plus Benefits Compensation Package

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting resumes for Department of Public Works Superintendent

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and three professional references to:

vbthr@vanburen-mi.org

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer

Publish: July 9, 2015; July 16, 2015; July 23, 2015; July 30, 2015

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Job Vacancy Posting



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
JOB VACANCY POSTING



Position Title: Water Worker I

Department: Department of Public Works

Classification: Regular, Full-time

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

Union Affiliation: AFSCME

Opening Date: July 21, 2015

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Starting Hourly Wage: \$15.50

91 Day Hourly Wage: \$16.47

18 Month Hourly Wage: \$17.45

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting applications for Water Worker I

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and application to:

vbthr@vanburen-mi.org

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer

Publish: July 23, 2015; July 30, 2015; August 6, 2015; August 13, 2015

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Job Vacancy Posting



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
JOB VACANCY POSTING



Position Title: Plan Reviewer and Building Inspector

Department: Planning and Development

Classification: Regular, Full-time

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

Union Affiliation: AFSCME

Opening Date: April 21, 2015

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Starting Hourly Wage: \$19.76

91 Day Hourly Wage: \$20.77

18 Month Hourly Wage: \$21.77

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting resumes for Plan Reviewer and Building Inspector.

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and application to:

vbthr@vanburen-mi.org

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer

Publish: July 9, 2015; July 16, 2015; July 23, 2015; July 30, 2015

To build a better world, start in your own community!

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Current Job Opening



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Current Job Opening



Planning and Economic Development Director

OPENING DATE: 06/08/15

CLOSING DATE: Open until Filled

DEPARTMENT: Developmental Services

SALARY: Annual Salary of \$70,000 plus Benefits Compensation Package

General Duty Statement:

Van Buren Charter Township is now accepting resumes for Planning and Economic Development Director.

Detailed information can be found on the Van Buren Township website.

www.vanburen-mi.org/about-the-community/help-wanted

Please submit a cover letter, resume and current salary history to:
vbthr@vanburen-mi.org

Only Qualified Applicants Need Apply

The Charter Township of Van Buren is an equal opportunity employer

Publish: July 9, 2015; July 16, 2015; July 23, 2015; July 30, 2015

Van Buren Township
Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 608 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, July 12:
0007 – loud party complaint, Arborview Ln.
0654 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Marlowe Ave.
0708 – abandoned auto, Denton/Michigan Ave.
0914 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd.
1100 – family trouble, Jackson St.
1232 – neighbor trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
1422 – sexual assault, Beckley Rd.
1545 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
1728 – missing person, Rogers Ave.
1921 – abandoned auto, Nautica Dr.
1941 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
2009 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
2102 – larceny, Andover Dr.
2126 – fireworks, Western St.
2157 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2206 – fireworks, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.
2255 – fireworks, W. Archwood

Monday, July 13:
0637 – assault & battery, Village Green Ln.
1136 – fraud, Tyler Rd.
1138 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
1241 – private property incident, Belleville Rd.
1554 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
1605 – personal injury accident, Bellridge
1631 – missing person, Tyler Rd.
1653 – larceny, Walden
1947 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2025 – harassment call, Oak Blvd.
2137 – family trouble, N. Timberview Dr.
2207 – noise complaint, Capitol Dr.
2210 – disturbance, Ayres Ave.
2217 – assault & battery, Anna Dr.
2321 – larceny from auto, Southport Bldgs. 13, 14
2326 – assault & battery, Oak Blvd.

Tuesday, July 14:
0013 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
0919 – private property incident, Martinsville Rd.
1148 – intimidation threat, Wheeler St.
1352 – suspicious person, Bayshore Dr./Denton
1358 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1412 – private property accident, Archwood Dr.
1444 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1553 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1835 – assault & battery, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2041 – disturbance, west end Presidential
2223 – hold up alarm, Village Green Ln.
2232 – disturbance, Parkwood Dr.

Wednesday, July 15:
0904 – private property incident, Sumpter Rd.
0959 – abandoned auto, Archwood
1008 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.
1112 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1230 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1344 – larceny, maple Dr.
1449 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
1542 – fraud, Jeremy Rd.
1551 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1630 – fraud, Leo’s
1630 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1714 – assault & battery, Tyler
1820 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1821 – larceny, Haggerty Rd.
2047 – neighbor trouble, Holly Ln.
2128 – property damage accident, Ann Dr.
2232 – assist citizen, Mammoth Video

Thursday, July 16:
0220 – private property accident, Denton Rd.
0609 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
0652 – breaking & entering, Rawsonville Rd.
0656 – suspicious person, Huron River Dr. / Hannan Rd.
0939 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Oak Ln.
1240 – larceny, Anna Dr.
1539 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
1756 – suspicious situation, Crowley Ave.
1800 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1820 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. /

Haggerty Rd.
1835 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2036 – harassment call, Pine Dr.
2051 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
2140 – fireworks, Michigan Ave.
2237 – retail fraud, Rawsonville
2309 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2323 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.

Friday, July 17:
1244 – private property accident, Van Born Rd.
1440 – private property accident, Ecorse Rd.
1712 – hold-up alarm, Parkwood Dr.
1725 – private property incident, Van Born Rd.
1835 – retail fraud, Belleville
2013 – missing person, Park Estates
2044 – breaking & entering, Rose Blvd.
2112 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2120 – fire investigation, McKinley St./Haggerty
2150 – larceny from auto, Dover Ct.

Saturday, July 18:
0020 – noise complaint, Kirkridge
0103 – disturbance, W. Huron River Dr.
0103 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Tyler Rd.
0159 – shots fired, Parkwood Dr.
0247 – assault & battery, Borgman Ave.
0724 – assault & battery, Van Buren St.
0853 – harassment call, Winchester St.
1141 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1159 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1203 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1316 – larceny from auto, Ecorse Rd.
1357 – harassment call, Cherry
1429 – suicide or attempt, Quirk Rd.
1443 – harassment call, Maple Dr.
1444 – intimidation threat, Jackson St.
1448 – hold-up alarm, Belleville Rd.
1530 – abandoned auto, Belleville Rd.
1620 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1706 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville Rd.
1807 – noise complaint, Lohr Rd.
1917 – noise complaint, Revere Dr.
1946 – disorderly conduct, Van Buren Park
1956 – operating while intoxicated, DNR E. Huron

River Dr.
1959 – agency assist, DNR, Huron River
2019 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2026 – operating while intoxicated, DNR Rawsonville Boat Launch
2033 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2101 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Marlowe
2102 – fireworks, Haggerty Rd.
2213 – disturbance, Victoria St.
2235 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Grove
2328 – operating while intoxicated, EB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 174 traffic stops, 39 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police
Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 12:
0734 – suspicious vehicle, Menlo Park Dr.
0809 – parking complaint, Carmell St.
1349 – family trouble, Carmell
1431 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1628 – disorderly conduct, Sumpter Rd.
1744 – assist fire dept. W. Columbia Ave.
1745 – noise complaint, North Liberty St.
1856 – property damage accident, Main/Denton
1915 – traffic hazard, Denton Rd./Belleville Rd.
2222 – found property, Hillside Cemetery
Monday, July 13:
0134 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
0155 – assist fire dept., Main St.
0220 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
0424 – suspicious situation, E. Huron River Dr.
1139 – property damage accident, Belleville Hardware
1216 – background investigation, Main St.
1317 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1437 – vehicle lockout, E. Columbia Ave.
1603 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Estrada Dr. (cancelled)
1954 – suspicious situation, Sumpter/South St.
2003 – family trouble, Carmell

Tuesday, July 14:
0341 – information, Main St.
1118 – miscellaneous complaint, Main St.
2021 – assist fire dept., Owen St.
2045 – suspicious situation, Main St.
2316 – motorist assist, Second St./Main St.

Wednesday, July 15:
0221 – suspicious situation, North Liberty St.
0944 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1238 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
2015 – animal complaint, Main St./Denton Rd.

Thursday, July 16:
0242 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Loza Ln.
0323 – agency assist, E. Huron River
0639 – noise complaint, Harbour Poite Dr.
0908 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe Dr.
1256 – civil matter, Carmell St.
1306 – trespassing, Potter Dr.
1328 – civil matter, Sumpter Rd.
1850 – agency assist, Belleville/Tyler
2151 – suspicious vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.

Friday, July 17:
0031 – juvenile complaint, N. Biggs Ave.
0510 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
0806 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1218 – miscellaneous complaint, W. Columbia
1310 – found property, Main St.
1411 – missing person, N. Biggs Ave.
1516 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1701 – hold up alarm, Third St.
2011 – E-911 cellular, Dos Rios St.
2033 – suspicious situation, Menlo Park Dr.
2157 – suspicious situation, Breakwater Ct.
2203 – agency assist, E. Waterbury Ct.
2359 – follow up, N. Biggs Ave.

Saturday, July 18:
0107 – operating while intoxicated, Main/First
0335 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
1220 – property damage accident, Main St.
1359 – assist fire dept., Biggs Ave.
1449 – agency assist, Belleville Rd.
1545 – disorderly conduct, Sumpter Rd.
1552 – trespassing, Carmell St.
2013 – mental, N. Liberty St.
2234 – assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
2321 – parking complaint, Breakwater Ct.
Also on this week’s log are 68 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township
Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, July 12:
0002 – fireworks complaint, 21000 bl. Sumpter
0200 – suspicious vehicle, 28000 bl. Haggerty
0216 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1053 – noise complaint, 8900 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1109 – recovered stolen property, Sherwood / Willow
1519 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1521 – threats complaint, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1841 – reckless driver complaint, Haggerty/Bemis

Monday, July 13:
0026 – traffic hazard, Judd/Clark
0040 – assist other agency, out of township
0109 – breaking & entering, Edgewood
0650 – juvenile complaint, Third St.
0841 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1455 – fraud complaint, 24000 bl. Carleton West
1557 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1630 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.
1802 – larceny, Rustic Ln.
1832 – subpoena service, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1843 – family trouble, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1939 – subpoena service, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2000 – attempt warrant pick up, New Mexico
2034 – assault, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.
2131 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2340 – alarm, Georgia

Tuesday, July 14:
0145 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
0801 – property damage accident, Willis / Rawsonville
0934 – fire dept. assist, 9800 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1233 – harassment complaint, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1240 – breaking & entering, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1329 – citizen assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1719 – civil dispute, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1745 – animal complaint, Bemis/Sumpter
1753 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

2004 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2131 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Wednesday, July 15:
0151 – violation public health code, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0249 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Bontekoe
1007 – reckless driver complaint, Sumpter/Willis
1057 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1352 – mental health commitment, 49000 bl. Wear
1415 – larceny, Mulberry
1543 – abandoned vehicle, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1703 – suspicious incident, Willow/Carleton West
1732 – juvenile complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
1930 – warrant pick up, Rawsonville/Willis
2035 – ORV complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2357 – malicious destruction of property, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.

Thursday, July 16:
0034 – assault, Greenmeadow
0836 – animal complaint, Willis/Martinsville
0902 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0940 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1055 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1138 – juvenile complaint, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1316 – neighbor dispute, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1414 – abandoned vehicle, Rustic Ln.
1524 – malicious destruction of property, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1536 – malicious destruction of property, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.
1602 – ORV complaint, Oakville Waltz/Elwell
1751 – fireworks complaint, Knollwood
1812 – suspicious vehicle, Sumpter/Judd
1923 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1958 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Willis
2119 – civil dispute, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
2327 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

Friday, July 17:
1148 – suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1151 – suspicious incident, Colorado
1308 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1456 – disorderly person, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1647 – warrant pick up, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2041 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Martinsville
2132 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Arkona Rd.
Saturday, July 18:
0021 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0045 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0708 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1127 – parking complaint, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1232 – suspicious incident, Knollwood
1247 – malicious destruction of property, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1347 – down wires, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1454 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1457 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1515 – kidnapping, Wear/Sherwood
1553 – animal complaint, 27000 bl. Martinsville
1745 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1840 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood
1954 – trespassing complaint, 26000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2012 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willow Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 10 follow-up investigations, 29 miscellaneous details, 103 patrol checks, and 35 traffic stops.

Fifth-annual Art Affair
on Main this Saturday
and Sunday downtown

The fifth-annual Art Affair on Main will be open this Saturday and Sunday on Main Street in downtown Belleville.

Saturday’s hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday’s hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Juried artists and crafters will be set up in tents holding their creations in the middle of the street between Third and Fifth streets. Food will be available and entertainment on the stages both days.

Bob Mytych will help youngsters draw on the sidewalk with chalk to be creative while the parents shop.

A breakfast to benefit CAF5 is set for Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the old fire station behind the museum.

School Board

(continued from page 1)

they are paying now, so the .5 mill would be a decrease in the tax. The current tax will be collected through the end of December.

Van Tassel said the next step is to form a committee, which will file with the state of Michigan, and then get the message out by knocking on doors and going to town hall meetings.

A woman in the audience said it would be slap in the face to voters for the board to ask for the full millage renewal since the survey was detailed to get the feelings of the public.

“The community will be appreciative you

listened to them,” she said.

In other business at Monday’s meeting the board:

- Approve naming Amy Gee of Allen Park as the new principal of Savage Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. Gee currently works for Trix Performance Academy charter school in Detroit. Her one-year contract will pay \$89,359 plus fringe benefits offered to all administrators. Van Tassel pointed out Gee is pregnant and due to deliver at the end of August and then could have 6-8 weeks family leave after that. “If you approve, she will schedule coffee hours while she can still waddle around,” Van Tassel said. The timing depends on when she delivers, Van Tassel

said. The district will figure out how to fill in for her, said Human Resource Director Shonta Langford-Green. When asked how many candidates there were, Green couldn’t say at first and then said there were 200 candidates in the original pool and nine candidates interviewed and that number whittled down. “You should not be so stingy with the information,” said Barbara Miller from the audience, referring to the figures that had to be pulled out of Green with several questions from the audience;

- Approved spending \$132,126.56 out of the general fund to improve the sound system for the Belleville High School Auditorium. The bid of Sweetwater was \$114,645.96 and Dynamic Group was \$17,126.56 combined for the total. The district spent \$1.7 million from the bonds for the auditorium. Mike Campbell said they used to have to borrow microphones and things from the music room and other areas to use on stage for musicals, but they want a functioning auditorium comparable to other communities. He said he heard members of the audience criticizing the sound quality at a recent event and, “It is just not adequate for what our needs are right now,” Campbell said. Trustee Sherry Frazier asked where Campbell was three years ago when they had bond money to spend. “Have needs changed? Do things break?” asked board president Brent Mikulski and Campbell said both things were true, since they were getting back to musicals;

- Approved purchasing a replacement for the 2011 F750 dump truck lost in last November’s fire. The board voted to buy a 2016 Ford F550 XLT dump truck from Atchinson Ford for the state purchase price of \$45,979.40 and the snow plow and salt spreaders installed and painted from Truck & Trailer Specialties, Inc. for \$33,750. The insurance company reimbursed the district \$72,038.35, so the cost to general budget is \$7,691.05;

- Heard an anti-bullying incident report from Director of Human Resources Green, since any bullying incidents that meet state criteria are to be reported to the board annually. The single reported bullying was verbal, Green said, but she did not give any further details at the meeting, other than to say it was at a middle school;

- Approved hiring the following teachers,

all starting Sept. 1: Carly Rose for BHS Spanish, Kyle Gleason for BHS Math, and Betty Small for BHS Business; Tracy Rumpfelt for McBride Science, Nicole Karaboyas for McBride Math, and Renee Rook for McBride Spanish; and Jotana Chester for Owen Music and Neva Jasman for Owen Special Education. When Trustee Frazier asked why there was no hiring for the elementary schools, Green said there are no openings in the elementaries because of retirees and student loss;

- Heard members of the audience ask about the survey of employees to determine morale, as presented by Richard Rytman at the last board meeting. Rytman offered to pay for the first round of a professional survey. Mikulski said there is no activity to engage Rytman’s offer. “I’m pretty sure this board is not going to address teacher morale,” said Frazier. She asked to have exit interviews as an agenda item and vice president Martha Toth said no one board member can put something on the agenda. She said board members know why every teacher left. Frazier said until the district addresses the uneasiness of staff members to come forward and contribute, “We’re going to continue to be mediocre...,” and

- Was reminded there is no work/study session in July. The next meeting is a regular meeting on Aug. 10 and then the Aug. 17 work/study meeting, both at the administration building.

Summer Extravaganza to raise funds for VBT Senior Center

A Summer Extravaganza with a Chinese auction, catered dinner, and evening of dancing is set for 3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7 at the Van Buren Township September Days Senior Center.

Those 50 and over are welcome. Cost is \$15 per person and tickets are available at the center through Monday, Aug. 3.

The event is to benefit the senior center. The center is at 46425 Tyler Road, (734) 699-8918.

“You have to be odd to be number one.”
— Dr. Seuss

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville Regular City Council Meeting Minutes July 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 P.M., at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Council Member Tindall	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Fielder, Second by Loria to approve the agenda with additions. To add Item 8A 2015 Joint & Crack Sealing Program, move all other items down and add Item 8J to enter into an agreement with the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority to develop summer employment opportunities for individuals between the ages of 14-24 (the “Target Youth”).
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of June 15, 2015 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. 2015 Joint & Crack Sealing Program Recommendation of Contract Award

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-082** to approve the recommendation of Hennessey Engineers, Inc. to award the 2015 Joint & Crack Sealing Program Contract to Michigan Joint Sealing, Inc. in the amount of \$67, 208.00 which includes a ten (10) percent contingency.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. American Cancer Society Relay for Life – Use of Fourth Street Square

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 15-083** to approve a request from the American Cancer Society to set up “rained-out” lit luminary bags with sand with a few words to wrap up the Cancer Society Relay on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at Fourth Street Square from 7-11 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Garage Sale Fees – Strawberry Festival Weekend

Discussion was held but no changes made concerning the current charge of \$250.00 to have a yard/garage sale during the Strawberry Festival weekend.

D. FOIA Presentation – City Attorney

Motion by Fielder, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-084** to adopt FOIA rules and regulations per state statute as recommended by City Attorney.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Election Workers Pay Scale

Motion by Tindall, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-085**, to approve the recommended increase in pay to Election Inspectors in the amount of \$10.50 for chairpersons, \$9.50 for inspectors, and \$15.00 per person per training session effective immediately.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Trade Inspectors Pay Scale

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-086** to approve the recommended increase in Building Department application fees from \$35.00 to \$50.00 and an increase in inspector rates of pay from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per inspection.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority – Addition of new Member and Amendment to Articles of Incorporation

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 15-087** to approve an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority to add the City of Lincoln Park as a member of the Authority.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. Continuation of the Downriver Wastewater Treatment System Joint management Committee

Motion by Loria, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 15-088** to approve the continuation of the Joint Management Committee with the County of Wayne and the other participating Communities related to the operation of the Downriver System. The extension to be through December 31, 2015.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. FY2016 SMART Municipal Credits

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 15-089** to approve the FY2016 SMART Municipal Credits in the amount of \$3,914.00 as presented.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

J. DETROIT WAYNE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Smith to approve **Resolution No. 15-090** to enter into a professional services agreement between Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and City of Belleville to develop summer employment opportunities for individuals between the ages of 14-24 (the “Target Youth”).
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Tindall, Second by Fielder to approve **Resolution No. 15-091** to approve accounts payable and payables over \$500.00 with the exception of payment to Brian Loranger in the amount of \$499.99 until further review.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loria, Second by Tindall to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Long, CMC

Approved: July 20, 2015

Published: July 23, 2015

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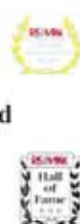
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